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THE  
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

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AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY  
J. G. RUTHERFORD, C.M.G.

Superintendent of Agriculture and Animal Industry, Department  
of Natural Resources Canadian Pacific Railway

AT THE  
WESTERN CANADA IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION  
CONVENTION

LETHBRIDGE . . . ALBERTA.

AUGUST 5TH, 6TH, 7TH, 1913

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## THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE.

Perhaps the most remarkable feature of the new life, which, since the discovery of steam power and the consequent continual and cumulative development of commercial and industrial activity, has become general throughout the world, is the subordination of agriculture from its proper place at the head and front of all human activity to a position in which it is regarded, at least by most unthinking men, with a careless toleration, in some cases bordering on contempt.

That, under modern conditions in civilized countries, the masses have already lost sight of the importance of agriculture as the primal factor in human affairs, is evidenced in many different ways.

Among these may be mentioned the constant and ever increasing trend cityward, as shown by the growing preponderance of urban over rural population; the tendency of the farmer's son to abandon agriculture for commercial pursuits or for one or other of the so-called higher professions and the superior attitude unwarrantably assumed by many city dwellers towards their country cousins.

Even in these great western provinces, where agriculture is and will always continue to be, the leading industry, we find in our urban communities a woeful lack of proper perspective in this regard.

This is shown by the tendency to build up and develop, largely through artificial means, cities and other centres of population without any apparent regard or consideration for the welfare or interests of the tillers of the soil in the territory tributary to these centres, and on which they must of necessity depend for their future maintenance and support.

In the hurly-burly of present day life, the farmer would appear to be a scarcely considered factor, although, without him and his produce, the wheels of commerce would not revolve for a single day, while, if farming operations throughout the world were suspended for but one week, our whole commercial and industrial fabric would fall to pieces and it is best not to think what would happen to the so-called giants of finance.

While the masses are thus too generally prone to ignore, or rather overlook, the importance of the farmer, it is fortunate that in all civilized communities there is to be found a different element consisting of intelligent and thoughtful men who devote their lives and energies to the betterment of agriculture and the improvement of agricultural methods both scientific and practical.

It may be laid down as a general rule that the more highly civilized a country is, and the more fully developed its agriculture, the greater is the consideration shown towards those engaged in this pursuit.

The personal verification of this statement would lead to many surprises among these unfamiliar with agricultural conditions in the older countries of the world.

Those of us who have watched the growth of settlement on these western prairies have often observed the mutual benefit derived from the commingling in close neighborhood of tillers of the soil from many

different lands. The almost unavoidable interchange of ideas and the comparison of different methods of doing certain things, gradually, if almost insensibly, lead to the adoption in such a community of a much higher composite standard than can be found in districts peopled by settlers of common origin.

The remarkably rapid advance in agricultural science which has taken place in the newer districts on this continent, especially during recent years, is unquestionably largely attributable to this commingling of the ideas of people from different countries, and when it is borne in mind that but few of our immigrants are derived from the classes in which the greatest mental development and the highest training exist, it goes without saying that a universal interchange of agricultural knowledge would be of inestimable value to farmers throughout the world.

We all know that, if, in any community farmers stand aloof and fail to meet with each other for the discussion of matters of common interest, but little advancement is made, while in those districts where Farmers' Clubs and Institutes flourish, the trend is in the direction of greater progress and prosperity.

In the same way, the province or state which devotes the most attention to agricultural education and the general spread of agricultural knowledge very soon begins to derive direct and tangible benefit from this policy and the same is true of those central governments which are sufficiently broad and far-seeing to make the knowledge and experience of their various component parts available for the benefit of all.

In this connection, too much cannot be said in appreciation of the magnificent work achieved by the agricultural press, constantly engaged as it is in an active propaganda of useful knowledge steadily increasing in scope, as well as in value.

As a rule, however, these various agencies have their limitations, inasmuch as the information which they disseminate is local, or at best, national in character, and in this respect, agriculture has until lately lagged behind almost every other line of human endeavor.

From the beginning of time, students of theology throughout the world have endeavored with more or less force and fervor to impress their views upon each other; the scientists of all countries have long been in the habit of exchanging ideas, while that fine field for the imagination, international law, has been, and still is, a profitable source of revenue to the legal profession. In the industrial world, and in mercantile life, knowledge practically ignores national lines, while in the realm of finance, we western forelopers have from time to time painful reminders that the supply of ready cash is controlled by the money kings of many different countries.

In this respect, as in many others, however, the farmer is now returning to his own; I use the word "returning" advisedly, because from the days when "Adam delved and Eve span" until the commencement of the period of tremendous expansion which followed the discovery of steam power but little over a century ago, the tiller of the soil was always rightly regarded as the most important factor in the community in which he lived.

Although for a time his importance has been partially obscured by the brilliant achievements of those whom he has all the time been feeding, he has recently again asserted his eternal right to the leadership of humanity.



When less than a decade ago, that remarkable man, David Lubin, of California, stirred to action by the realization that, through the manipulations of speculative corporations and individuals, the farmers of America and of the world at large were being yearly robbed of a large proportion of the just returns from their labors, set his keen intellect to work to devise a remedy, even he could scarcely have anticipated the tremendous nature of the agencies which it was to be his lot to put in motion through the organization of the International Institute of Agriculture.

His original conception was merely a universal Crop Reporting Bureau, to be established on lines similar to those already existing in many individual countries. This he foresaw would eventually render impossible the market manipulations of those persons who for years had been making it their business to secure advance information relative to the supply and demand of agricultural produce throughout the world.

This great project was submitted by its determined and persistent originator to one after another of the leading governments of the world, only to be rejected as Utopian and impracticable, not to say impolitic, and it was not until he succeeded in gaining the ear of His Majesty, King Victor Emmanuel of Italy, that he received any encouragement.

The details of the first memorable interview between His Majesty and citizen Lubin are interesting to a degree, but are best reserved for private recital. Suffice it to say that the King at once took the matter in hand, and, after repeated interviews and careful consideration of the whole scheme, issued an invitation to all the governments of the world to send representatives to Rome to discuss the formation of

"An International institution absolutely unpolitical in its aims, which would have before it the conditions of agriculture in the different countries of the world, which would give notice periodically of the quantity and quality of the crops on hand, and promote their production, facilitate their sale and encourage a more favourable settlement.

"Acting in unison with the various agricultural bodies now in existence, this institution would furnish reliable information as to the demand and supply of agricultural labor in various parts of the world, so as to provide immigrants with a safe and useful guide. It would make possible collective defence by the nations against diseases of plants and domestic animals, which, as a rule, cannot be successfully fought by means of partial action; it would also encourage the development of societies for rural co-operation, agricultural insurance and agrarian credit."

This invitation was accepted by forty sovereign powers and the delegates chosen by them met in Rome in June, 1905.

These representatives were men of high standing in their respective countries.

The delegates from Great Britain were the Earl of Minto, the Earl of Jersey, Sir Thomas Elliott, then Permanent Secretary of the British Board of Agriculture, Mr. T. P. Gill, Permanent Secretary of the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland and Sir Edward Buck, representing the government of India.

The discussion was of the fullest and most interesting character, and while the delegates naturally failed to agree on every point, they were unanimously in favor of the establishment of an International Institute of Agriculture to be charged with the duty of carrying out the project outlined in His Majesty's invitation.

Several European countries which had experienced more or less agrarian agitation proposed that the more powerful agricultural organi-

zations should be entitled to representation in the Institute. This, however, failed to meet with the approval of the majority, as the Institute, being a State organization, must of necessity, be composed of delegates deriving authority from their respective governments and acting under their control.

The membership was divided into five classes or groups and it was agreed that the membership fees for these groups should, at least for the first two years, be as follows:—

Countries composing the first group to pay an annual subscription fee of 24,000 francs (\$4,800.00) and to have five votes.

Countries comprising the second group to pay an annual subscription fee of 12,000 francs (\$2,400.00) and to have four votes.

Countries composing the third group to pay an annual subscription fee of 6,000 francs (\$1,200.00) and to have three votes.

Countries composing the fourth group to pay an annual subscription fee of 3,000 francs (\$600.00) and to have two votes.

Countries composing the fifth group to pay an annual subscription fee of 1,500 francs (\$300.00) and to have one vote.

Provision was made that, in cases where a larger subscription was found necessary, the annual fee for the first group might be increased to 40,000.00 francs (\$8,000.00), which, following in the same ratio as above, would call for an annual subscription fee from the fifth and last group of 2,500 francs (\$500.00).

Canada was originally placed in the fourth class, but on my advice, was, at the November meeting in 1908, advanced to the second class.

During the conference, convincing evidence of the enthusiasm and generosity of the King of Italy was furnished by the announcement that he had endowed the Institute, from his own personal revenues, with 300,000 lire or \$60,000.00 a year, and that, pending the completion of the organization, this fund would be devoted to the providing of a suitable home for the Institute in the Eternal City.

Among the other matters dealt with at this conference and embodied in the protocol prepared for ratification by the governments of the various adhering countries, was the preparation of a constitution for the Institute.

This document as drafted provides for a periodical General Assembly of agricultural, diplomatic and other representatives from the various adhering countries and for a Permanent Committee to which these countries have the right to send one delegate empowered to cast the entire number of votes to which his country may be entitled.

The representation of any country on this Permanent Committee can be deputed to the delegate of another adhering country on condition that the actual number of members in attendance is not less than fifteen.

Although no limit is placed on the number of representatives which may be sent by any government to the General Assembly, it is provided that, in this body also, each country shall cast only the number of votes to which it is properly entitled in point of classification.

The General Assembly is the governing body, having the right to approve or disapprove of any detail of the program prepared by the Permanent Committee with reference to the organization or internal economy of the Institute.

It is charged with the ultimate control of all expenditures and the authorization of the budget prepared by the Permanent Committee, as also with the responsibility of presenting to the adhering Governments, for their approval, all modifications of any kind involving increase of expenditure or extension of the powers of the Institute.

The General Assembly is empowered to fix the dates for the holding of its own sessions and to lay down its own rules of procedure, but, in order to render its deliberations valid, there must be present at each meeting delegates representing at least two thirds of the votes of the adhering countries.

The executive powers of the Institute are entrusted to the Permanent Committee, which, under the direction and control of the General Assembly, prepares all matters for the consideration of that body and puts its deliberations into effect.

The Permanent Committee elects, from among its members, for a period of three years, a President and a Vice-President, who are eligible for re-election, makes its own rules of procedure, votes on budgets of the Institute within the limits of the sums placed at its disposal by the General Assembly and appoints and dismisses employees.

The Secretary-General of the Permanent Committee performs the duties of Secretary of the General Assembly. The protocol also stipulates that the Institute is to be strictly international in its scope and that all questions relative to the economic interests, legislation or administration of any particular country are to be excluded from its sphere.

It also carefully defines and delimits the operations of the Institute and specifies the exact lines of work in which it may engage.

This protocol was submitted through the proper diplomatic channels to the Governments of the various adhering countries and duly ratified by each, but as these negotiations and the selection of suitable delegates occupied some time, it was not until May, 1908, that it was found possible to call the first meeting of the Permanent Committee.

The meeting was held in the magnificent palace which, through the generosity of the King of Italy, had been erected within the grounds of the historic Villa Borghese. This building, which was at the time scarcely completed but which was practically finished for the later meeting held in November of the same year, is an exceedingly handsome and commodious structure. From an architectural point of view, it leaves nothing to be desired, while it is sumptuously furnished and decorated throughout with fine specimens of modern Italian art. Its situation is excellent, commanding a beautiful view of St. Peters' and the hills across the Tiber.

Although only sovereign powers has been invited to attend the preliminary convention of 1905, that body, on the motion of the British delegates, had agreed that, on demand of the countries to which they owed allegiance, colonies should be admitted to full membership in the Institute.

It thus fell out that, as the first Canadian member of the Permanent Committee, I found myself associated with a small but compact group of British delegates representing the mother country and the Dominions



overseas. These comprised Sir Thomas Elliott, K.C.B., delegate from Great Britain and Ireland, with whom were associated Mr. T. P. Gill, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and Mr. W. G. Adams, also of that department, Honourable, now Sir John Taverner, delegate from Australia, and Sir Edward Buck, K.C.S.I., delegate from India. New Zealand and Mauritius, although adhering, had no representatives present on this occasion.

Mr. David Lubin, represented most befittingly, as he has since continued to do, the great republic to the south of us.

The following countries were also represented each by one individual delegate:—Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Russia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Servia, Bulgaria, Roumania, Montenegro, Egypt, Mexico, Costa Rica, Argentina, Ecuador, Cuba, Chili, China and Japan. Thirty-two delegates, representing as many countries, were actually present, and although this number has been largely exceeded at almost every meeting since held, the occasion was one practically without precedent. I do not expect that it will ever fall to my lot to attend, at least upon this earth, a more remarkable gathering. Perhaps the few days which preceded the actual opening of the Institute were the most interesting. As is usual when many men of many minds, and especially of many nations, meet to discuss an important matter of common interest, there were many opinions and many points of view. The natural tendency to divergence of thought and expression, under such circumstances, was in this case intensified by the fact that the scheme under review was of so extraordinary a character.

There was much hard thinking by thoughtful men differing widely in training and previous environment, and in addition, largely influenced by national considerations. Under such conditions, it is not surprising that there were many different conceptions of the future work and well being of the International Institute of Agriculture.

Ideas were in the melting pot, and although the furnace was not yet in full blast, the process of solution had already begun.

Conferences were constantly being held, and discussions more or less animated, according to the national temperaments of those taking part, were everywhere in evidence.

It was soon apparent that, unless the delegates of the greater nations could be brought to agree upon some line of policy reasonably definite and mutually satisfactory before the actual meetings began, there would be more argument than action and but little hope of a logical outcome. Fortunately for all concerned, the delegates from the larger and more important countries were, almost without exception, men of sound sense and good judgment.

This being the case, compromise became the order of the day, and by giving here and taking there, the adoption by these gentlemen of a general policy, so far at least as the initial steps were concerned, was soon rendered possible.

The Institute was formally declared open by His Majesty, the King of Italy, on May 23rd and the first meeting of the Permanent Committee took place on Monday, May 25th. Meetings were held either once or twice daily until June 6th, and although at times the discussions, which were all conducted in French, this being the official language of the Institute, were somewhat protracted, and at times, rather more animated

than is usual among the placid Anglo-Saxon peoples, excellent progress was made in the work of preparing rules of procedure, deciding on the exact character and scope of the Institute and arranging all details relative to staff, salaries, discipline and like matters.

A commission of eight members was entrusted with the completion of this task, and on June 5th, an adjournment was made until the following November.

The Permanent Committee, which on this occasion comprised a number of delegates from countries not previously represented, re-assembled in Rome, on November 16th, 1908, and after electing its officers in accordance with the terms of the protocol, took up and discussed the report of the Sub-Commission of Eight, which, after some slight amendment, was finally adopted.

This report was later presented to the General Assembly, which met for the first time on November 28th.

The meeting of this General Assembly, which may be termed the ornamental branch of the Institute as contrasted with the Permanent Committee, which is its working force, was a most impressive gathering, comprising a large number of the most prominent agriculturists of the world, as also many statesmen and diplomats of high rank.

After electing officers and laying down rules of procedure, this dignified assemblage spent considerable time in discussing the report of the Permanent Committee, which it finally approved, subsequently adjourning with much ceremony.

I do not think it would be either proper or profitable to attempt to deal with the Report of the Permanent Committee in detail. Suffice it to say that it provided for the appointment of three separate and distinct Sub-Committees to be elected by the Permanent Committee from among its own members.

The first of these Sub-Committees was charged with the management and routine of the Institute, the second with the collection and publication of agricultural statistics and information relative to diseases of plants, the third with the study of agricultural labor, co-operation, insurance and agricultural credit.

The Report dealt with a number of other matters of minor importance. The provisions for the appointment, control, remuneration and retirement or superannuation of the working staff of the Institute itself, comprising the Secretary-General and his assistants, chiefs of divisions, librarians, chiefs of sections, editors, clerks, translators, stenographers, messengers, caretakers, and even the elevator men, were elaborated most minutely, but time will not permit of their discussion here.

I have now outlined the history of the organization of the Institute at what may seem to you unnecessary length, but in reality, very briefly, in view of the obstacles which had to be overcome in securing harmony of thought and action among so many individuals differing widely in origin and training.

The success achieved in this regard is evidenced by the unanimity with which the report of the Permanent Committee was officially adopted by that body. The equally fine spirit in which it was received by the General Assembly is truly remarkable when we consider that the occasion was without a parallel in the history of the human race.

Never before since the beginning of time had representatives from

practically every country under the sun met, as had these delegates, day after day, at the same table to discuss together the establishment and operation of a joint office, to be conducted on modern business lines by a partnership comprising the world at large.

In order to be able to comprehend the magnitude of the task so well performed by the Permanent Committee in preparing this report, one must almost have been present at its meetings.

During the earlier sessions, the more practical members who believed that the Institute could, if properly organized, be made to render most effective services to agriculture, had often cause to fear that the restrictions imposed by the State Convention of 1906 would result in making it what many of the diplomats in attendance only too evidently desired that it should be, namely, a formal, ineffective and useless statistical bureau.

Only by the fine courage and enthusiasm of David Lubin, its original founder, and the gentle strength and excellent judgement of Sir Thomas Elliott, backed as these were by a few hard headed men, who from day to day, gained both in numbers and influence, was it finally possible to overcome the bureaucratic element and make the Institute what it is today, a live factor in the agricultural and commercial life of the world.

As was only to be expected, the difficulties of the new undertaking did not cease with the completion of its formal organization. The Permanent Committee had still before it an arduous task in the selection and appointment of the various members of the official staff, gathered as these had to be from many different countries.

Every effort was made to secure the best available talent, but as can be readily understood, many of the men best qualified for the work did not care to take up their permanent residence in Rome, while the scale of remuneration offered, although equal to, or even slightly higher than that prevailing in most parts of Continental Europe, was scarcely sufficient to induce persons of this class to expatriate themselves.

The question of language was also an obstacle, and, although the Institute has now for some time been working smoothly and with few changes in its official personnel, such changes were not infrequent during the first two years of its existence.

There have also been not a few changes in the personnel of the Permanent Committee, but many of the original members are still to the fore. My own official connection with the Institute ceased in November, 1908, as it was, of course, impossible for me to permanently reside in Rome, and, at the same time, carry out the duties of the official position which I then held in this country.

Canada has not, for sometime, had a regular delegate on the Permanent Committee, her representation being now entrusted to an attache of the British Embassy in Rome. Nor, in marked contrast to the other adhering countries, has she at present connected with the Institute a representative familiar with her actual agricultural conditions. This, to my mind, is greatly to be regretted, as is also the fact that the authorities at Ottawa have never really grasped the great potentialities of the Institute as evidenced by the attitude of Canada towards that organization since 1908.

A good deal of formative work was done in 1909, but it was really not until the following year that the Institute got properly under way.

One of the first tasks to be undertaken was the investigation of the methods followed by the various adhering countries in regard to the collection of crop reports and agricultural statistics in general, with special reference to the reliability of the information thus obtained.

Very satisfactory progress has been made in standardizing reports of this nature, and although perfection has not yet been attained, a marked improvement has been effected in many of the adhering countries. Under the system at present followed, but which it is the intention to improve and extend as rapidly as possible, full reports are forwarded by the various governments to Rome, so as to reach the Institute in time to permit of their publication in the regular Statistical Bulletin issued in English, French, German, Spanish and Italian, about the 20th of each month.

In addition to this full monthly report, news is constantly being received by the Institute from the various governments.

When this is deemed sufficiently important, it is rapidly translated into the languages above mentioned, being those most commonly used throughout the world and corresponding adjustment made in the weights and measures, as also the money terms used. This is then forwarded by telegraph or cable to all the adhering countries.

It is gratifying to know that the work of the Institute in this connection has shown a steady improvement, until today, its figures are quoted as both reliable and authoritative.

In the other lines of work undertaken by the Institute, the progress made has also been very gratifying.

With only such slight modifications as were from time to time found necessary in actual practice, the plan of the organization adopted by the Institute in 1908 was followed until May, 1911.

At the meeting of the General Assembly then held, Sir Edward Buck, the delegate for India, who has been associated with the Institute ever since the preliminary meeting in 1905 and who is an exceedingly able man of large experience, succeeded in bringing about a change which he had long advocated, namely, the creation of a special division of agricultural intelligence and diseases of plants.

Under present conditions, therefore, the Institute comprises the following divisions:—

- (1) Management.
- (2) General Statistics.
- (3) Agricultural Intelligence and Diseases  
of Plants.
- (4) Economic and Social Institutions.

The Division of General Statistics deals with the following subjects:—

Agricultural Statistics: Enquiry, collection and publication of agricultural information and statistics relating to animal and vegetable culture and production, the trade in, and distribution and consumption of agricultural produce; market prices and stocks of agricultural produce; general and special fluctuations in agricultural produce; markets, sales, fairs, etc., interpretation and comparison of various statistical data.

Collection of Finance and Customs Statistics relating to agricultural produce; imports and exports; daily, weekly and monthly agricul-

tural statistics; general statistics; special periodic and occasional statistics; statistical departments of each country, etc.

The Division of Agricultural Intelligence and Diseases of Plants, deals with:—

(a) Agricultural Information: Enquiry, collection and publication of practical information relating to animal and vegetable culture and production; enquiries and monographs regarding vegetable and animal produce; collection and abstraction of various periodic information as to the agricultural situation in every country.

(b) Plant Diseases: Distribution and prevalence of disease; remedies, destructive pests; entomology.

The Division of Economic and Social Institutions deals with the following matters: wages of agricultural labour; statistics and information concerning the organization of agricultural co-operation, insurance and credit.

The following bulletins are now issued regularly by the Institute:

- 1 A monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics.
- 2 A monthly Bulletin of Economic and Social Intelligence.
- 3 A monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Intelligence and Plant Diseases.

Of these the Statistical Bulletin already mentioned, supplies in a tabular form information as to the area, production and condition of the crops of wheat, rye, barley, oats, corn, rice and cotton in the principal producing countries of the world, based on the official information supplied to the Institute. Supplements to the Bulletin are issued from time to time containing the news received by the Institute between the regular monthly issues, and the results of any census of livestock which may be taken in any country are also published as soon as they are available.

The information furnished by this Bulletin, coming as it does from official sources, is unquestionably the best guide which has ever been made available for the use of farmers and others whose interest it is to study market possibilities.

While there is still room for improvement, some of the adhering countries not having yet perfected their methods of securing the necessary information, the reports furnished by the Institute are already infinitely more reliable and trustworthy than the unauthoritative and often inspired reports emanating from speculative and commercial sources.

The Bulletin of Economic and Social Intelligence is published monthly in French and provisionally in English. Each issue consists of from 250 to 400 pages, embodying a mass of information relative to the progress of agricultural co-operation, insurance and credit throughout the world.

It is difficult to over-estimate the value of this publication when one considers the extraordinary improvement in the social and economic conditions affecting agriculture which has been brought about in a number of different European countries by the intelligent study, and the equally intelligent application, of the co-operative principle and the astounding lack of knowledge regarding it which still prevails in other parts of the world.



This bulletin will, however, from this time on provide those interested in the study of agricultural co-operation and kindred subjects with full and exact information as to the progress of the movement throughout the world.

The creation of the International Institute of Agriculture would have been well worth while, even if its only achievement had been the awakening of a more general interest in this vital subject. In this connection, I would say that the American Commission, which has just concluded a tour through a number of the European countries for the purpose of studying co-operative methods in general and co-operative rural credit systems in particular, owes its origin to the interest awakened in these subjects by and through the International Institute of Agriculture.

Mr. David Lubin, the original founder of the Institute, was the moving spirit in bringing about the formation of the Commission in question, it being the outgrowth of a conference held under the auspices of the 4th Annual Convention of the Southern Commercial Congress held in Nashville, Tenn., in 1912, and in which twenty-seven states participated.

At this conference Mr. Lubin explained fully the various European co-operative systems and in so doing, made free use of the publications of the Institute.

Having once started the movement, Mr. Lubin, as is his custom, spared no effort to make this Commission a practical success, and that it has been so is already abundantly evident from the preliminary statements which have appeared in the press as coming from some of the delegates from these Western provinces, who fortunately for all concerned were included among its membership.

I deeply regret that, owing to the pressure of my present official work in its formative stages, I could not feel justified in accepting the very pressing invitation extended to me by Mr. Lubin to join the Commission as representative of the Department of Natural Resources.

While, owing to my previous acquaintance with many of the men who, in Europe, are most closely identified with the movement, and my consequent comparative familiarity with it, I might possibly have been of some small use to the other Canadian delegates, I feel satisfied that the full reports of these gentlemen, when available, will, to paraphrase the ancient martyr, "light such a candle in Canada as shall never be out."

The Bulletin of Agricultural Intelligence and of Plant Diseases is published monthly in several languages, including English. This publication is the most complete and comprehensive periodical summary of universal and up-to-date agricultural information which has ever been placed within easy reach of the farmer. It is compiled by shrewd and intelligent expert editors from the carefully scrutinized pages of some two thousand journals treating of agriculture, livestock, forestry, rural engineering, including irrigation, land reclamation and conservation of soils, which are regularly received at the Institute.

Still further information is drawn and epitomized from thousands of bulletins and reports forwarded to the Institute by the various Departments of Agriculture throughout the world and by other scientific bodies dealing with agriculture and related subjects. Each monthly issue of this bulletin contains some 200 pages of printed matter systematically arranged for easy reference. In it are published for general information any official communications contributed by the adhering governments.

In addition to these, three monthly bulletins, the Institute publishes weekly in French, a Bibliographical Bulletin containing a list of all new books, as well as of all specially noteworthy articles dealing with agriculture and allied subjects which have reached the Institute during the week. Its object is to supply to those interested, early information as to current agricultural literature in advance of the more detailed particulars furnished by the monthly bulletins.

The Institute also issues from time to time special publications dealing with its own work from the international point of view.

The regular monthly bulletins can be obtained by any one either directly from the Secretary-General of the International Institute at Rome or through any reliable book-seller on payment of the following annual subscriptions:—

Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics .....	\$1.16
Bulletin of Economic and Social Intelligence.....	3.48
Bulletin of Agricultural Intelligence and Diseases of Plants .....	3.48

The joint subscription for all three of these publications has been fixed at \$6.96.

The Dominion Government issues monthly a summary of all three, which may be obtained free of charge on application to "The Publications Branch," Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, but owing to the delay inseparable from the work or reprinting and re-issue, and the condensation found necessary, the original publications are the more desirable.

The finances of the Institute are in a sound and satisfactory condition. Its regular official income is, of course, assured and invariably forthcoming, while the management is not only business-like and capable, but from the fact of its being largely in the hands of European officials, free from the extravagance which is too often seen in connection with the expenditure of public funds on this side of the Atlantic.

The Institute then is established and has made a good beginning in the great work for which it was designed.

Since, as the old story has it, the nations parted at the Tower of Babel in sorrow and confusion, they never again united in a common enterprise until their envoys foregathered in Rome five years ago.

Signor Tittoni, the Foreign Minister of Italy, in closing the Assembly of 1908, did not fail, to grasp the significance of the occasion when he said: "The Assembly may really be called the first session of the world's Parliament," and as another noted man then present commented, he might have added "the Parliament of Peace."

In support of this view, I quote the following from the proceedings of the great Hague Peace Conference held in the same year:—

"Resolved that, as international peace and prosperity depend largely upon economic justice, this Congress expresses its satisfaction at the co-operation of all nations of the world in establishing the International Institute of Agriculture, which will perform an inestimable service as a clearing house of economic information that will tend to lessen unnecessary fluctuations in the price of agricultural produce, thereby promoting stability in the capital and labor of the factory as well as the farm, and resolved, that peace societies should call the attention of the world to this important factor in the promotion of international peace."

It is significant that the man in whose mind the idea of the Institute first originated, and to whose energy and persistence it owes its being, is a scion of that ancient Semitic race which, while ever preserving its identity, so readily adapts itself to the life and conditions of every country of the world.

With the heredity of this great race, tempered by the trials and persecutions of Poland, and stimulated by the free life and freer thought of America, David Lubin was a fitting instrument for the hand of Providence in the inauguration of this new era in human affairs.

It is also significant that, after being rejected by other countries in which it might well have been expected to find a congenial home, the Institute was implanted in Italy, the first of European countries to develop her agricultural resources, and again, the first after the dark ages to revive scientific agriculture and to follow, as she has ever since done, earnestly and closely its most intensive practice.

The irrigation works designed by that universal genius, Leonardo da Vinci, in the fifteenth century, have never been permitted to fall into disuse, and for years experts from every country have been going to Italy to study the methods there in vogue for the use and control of water in the irrigation, as well as in the reclamation, of land.

Again, it is noteworthy that the Institute is domiciled in Rome, that Eternal and many sided city round which cling so many human associations and traditions that, even in these modern and degenerate days, it is without a rival as the Mecca of thoughtful souls.

Once more, this is not only the first universal international institution actually doing business daily under business rules and business management, it is an agricultural institution. In other words, we are back to first principles.

The first real business of humanity was the tillage of the soil, whether we start at the back gate of the garden of Eden or just this side of Darwin's missing link, points of departure possibly not so far asunder as they might at first mention appear.

Most significant of all, therefore, is it that this great new movement, which, whether we yet believe it or not, is certain to effect more in the bringing of mankind to a common understanding than anything else that ever happened, is an agricultural movement throughout.

It indicates that the temporary eclipse from which the farmer has suffered, owing to the industrial activity of the last hundred years, is at an end and that agriculture is again being restored to its rightful place in the field of human endeavor.

And we must be just. We must admit that, but for the wonderful facilities in the matters of transportation, communication, publication, and many others which we now enjoy and which we owe to that very industrial activity and the genius of invention which gave it birth and bore it company, we would not today have the International Institute of Agriculture with all the glorious promise for the future which it holds in store.

The Institute is an accomplished fact, its work has been begun. But there is yet much to do, and if it is to effectively serve its purpose, the farmers themselves must take a greater interest in its management.

Its permanence is assured, it is supported from the public treasures of half a hundred world powers and it goes without saying that, estab-

lished as it is by formal state convention, it will continue to exist and to collect and disburse these revenues.

Under these circumstances, it is the plain duty of the farmers of every subscribing country to see to it that they get value for their money. They should not only avail themselves of its use to the fullest possible extent but they should keep a close watch on its movements, and from time to time, when this appears necessary or advisable, suggest changes in its policy or improvements in its methods. Such suggestions, to have effect, should, of course, follow the regular channels. All official communications between Canada and the Institute are made through the Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa, who will see that any proper representations made to him or through him to the Institute receive due consideration, whether these originate with individual farmers or with any organization of farmers.

Its usefulness can, by such means, be indefinitely extended until its beneficent influence is felt on every farm and in every farm house, as well as in every farmer's bank account.

In this connection, I would suggest to our friends of the Agricultural Press that, in the Institute, and especially in its publications, there is a hitherto unworked mine of useful and up to date information, much of which is applicable to Canadian conditions and likely to be of great value to Canadian farmers.

Rome, the great city where the Institute has its being, was not built in a day. It is barely five years since the Institute was established.

It will, no doubt, grow with time, but it may as well be realized that, for the rate and manner of its growth, as well as for its practical value now and hereafter, the real responsibility must lie with the farmer in whose interest it was conceived, and on whose behalf it is maintained.

It may be that, as time goes on and the advantages of co-operative action become more generally apparent to those engaged in agricultural pursuits, we may see in this, and in many other of the adhering countries, the birth and development of National Institutes designed and equipped to work in helpful harmony with the Mother House at Rome. There is, in fact, no limit to the possibilities of agricultural progress in this, as in many other directions, but there is a limit to my time and another to your patience, and I, therefore, conclude by expressing the hope that some at least of these present will from now on take a larger interest than they have hitherto done in the International Institute of Agriculture.

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